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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 17, 1975

The Honorable
William Colby
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
McLean, Virginia

Dear Mr. Colby:

As you know, the Government Operations Committee in the Senate will take up the issue of Congressional oversight over the intelligence community as soon as Congress returns in January. Senator Percy, as Ranking Minority Member, will be deeply involved in restructuring the oversight responsibilities of Congress. Because of my work with you in Vietnam, my exposure at Treasury to the National Security Council process and my present position on the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Senator has asked me to aid the Minority Counsel of the Government Operations Committee, John Childers, in formulating ideas on the subject.

John Childers and I would like to solicit your ideas on the subject as well as those of your senior staff. Possibly a series of meetings could be developed to discuss the issue of oversight, both philosophically as well as practically. The sessions would be off the record, for background use only with no attributions to persons or the Agency. Also, I see no reason why the sessions need be confined to the Agency.

John and I will be in town through the holidays, as well as in January. The only exception is the week of January 5-9 when I may be attending the International Monetary Fund Interim Committee Meeting. I would hope we could commence on this project as soon as possible.

My best to you and your family this holiday season.

Cordially,

Charles F. Meissner
Staff Associate

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